

Wade asks community's support

INEL's in the running as space reactor site

DOE-ID Manager Troy Wade last week appealed to local, regional and state government officials to voice their support for the SP-100 Ground Engineering Systems Test program being sought by the INEL.

Meeting with government officials at the WCB, Wade says the INEL is in "fierce" competition with the Nevada Test Site, the Hanford Engineering Development Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratory for the five-year, \$10 million per year SP-100. Because nuclear power is not a popular issue in many parts of the country and some facilities have been targets

of anti-nuclear protests, Wade notes, community support of nuclear power will be an important factor in any site receiving the SP-100.

Wade says the governor of Idaho, the mayor of Idaho Falls and the president of the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce already have written letters to DOE stating their support of the INEL and the SP-100 being located here. Wade asked other government officials to do the same, and he offered to provide them with all the information they needed to make their decision.

A formal proposal for the SP-100, a small fission reactor which would be a power source in space, will be filed with officials in Washington, D.C., May 1. A siting decision is expected in July.

Ironically, the final decision for siting the SP-100 rests with the Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, a post for which Wade is being considered. Should he be appointed to that office, he concedes he would have to let someone else make the siting decision.

Some of TMI core moved to reactor vessel bottom

Recent examinations of the TMI Unit 2 reactor vessel indicate some molten core materials—perhaps 10 to 20 percent of the core weight—did move down into the bottom of the reactor vessel during the March 1979 accident. Scientists at the INEL have developed a hypothesis to explain the partial melting of the core and its subsequent relocation into the bottom of the reactor vessel.

Jim Broughton, manager of EG&G Idaho's TMI Accident Evaluation Program, explains that during the accident, temperatures in portions of the upper half of the core reached the fuel component melting points (up to 5100 degrees Fahrenheit) and some of the cladding became embrittled due to oxidation as temperatures increased. "Some molten material, including structural and fuel material, flowed

down and resolidified in the lower portions of the core, leaving behind fuel rods and fuel rod remnants with embrittled cladding," says Broughton. "The introduction of cooling water fragmented a large part of the remaining embrittled fuel rods, which then formed a rubble bed on top of the resolidified core material."

"As the accident progressed, this relatively coherent mass of resolidified material was not effectively cooled and again became molten. Some of the molten material flowed into the bottom of the reactor vessel where it was cooled and solidified again by water from the reactor's safety system. No more melting of core materials occurred after that point."

Broughton says this postulated accident scenario was constructed from data taken during the accident and recent observations of the

damaged core correlated with results from severe accident research and computer simulations. "However, we anticipate this scenario will be refined as examinations progress and additional information becomes available."

INEL NEWS

Member, IABC
International Association
of Business Communicators

Published by the Public Information Office,
EG&G Idaho, Inc.
P.O. Box 1625, Idaho Falls ID 83415
(208) 526-1374 for news and Trading Post ads.

Stories and ads should reach the News at least seven working days prior to the publication date.

The INEL News is published the first and third Tuesday of each month for employees and retirees of the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy administered laboratory which is engaged in nuclear reactor and fuel cycle technology, as well as industrial conservation, environmental research and other nonnuclear energy development. Correspondence concerning material appearing in the INEL News should be addressed to the editor.

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Transportation Division marks 34 years of service to INEL

In 1951 24 white school buses were put on the road to carry INEL employees to and from the site. On April 27, the INEL Transportation Division, operated by EG&G Idaho, marks its 34th anniversary with the annual division awards banquet.

Troy Wade II, DOE-ID manager, is guest speaker this year. Numerous awards will be given including National Safety Council Million Mile Awards to M. M. "Bud" Hammond, 20 years of bus driving, and Gerry Wilkinson, 22 years driving buses. These awards are given to fleet drivers who accumulate one million miles of on-the-job driving without a preventable accident.

At the banquet, division personnel also will

recognize receipt of the 1984 first place award in the NSC's Transit Section lost time accident injury rate contest.

Over the past several years, the division has consistently won Golden 100 Awards from Fleet Owner magazine in national competition for outstanding fleet management, maintenance and innovation.

The division operates 154 buses now, the largest of the DOE bus fleets, along with 569 light vehicles and 677 pieces of construction equipment all worth more than \$29 million. The bus operation annually carries some 2.3 million passengers in excess of 5 million miles. Since the bus system started service, drivers have covered nearly 129 million miles.

Time nears to say "thanks" to secretaries

Professional Secretaries Week is April 21 through 27 and a number of activities are planned to observe the annual event.

Idaho Falls Mayor Tom Campbell will kick activities off Monday with a proclamation noting the week. Also, the WEC Personnel Department at the NRF will sponsor a luncheon at the site for its secretaries.

Wednesday will be a busy part of the week for activities.

A no-host luncheon for secretaries is planned

by ANL-W with Pat Moonier, senior staff assistant to director Ronald Teunis, as guest speaker. WINCO will bring its secretaries at the CPP to town for a luncheon. The place and guest speaker to be announced later. Finally, the Eagle Rock Chapter of Professional Secretaries International will have its annual banquet at the Stardust with a social period starting at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

At the dinner, Secretary of the Year Ilene McKnight, EG&G Idaho, will be introduced and

the Executive of the Year will be announced. Guest speaker for the evening is local author Carol Shelton Walker. Also, the chapter will announce winners of three \$100 scholarships to be given to outstanding secretarial students at Upper Valley high schools and business colleges.

Those wishing to attend the banquet can make reservations through Friday, April 19, with Loretta Flowers (6-6218 or 524-2793).